

Mechanics Support the Fight in Fallujah

By Spc. Al Barrus
122nd MPAD

FALLUJAH, Iraq -- Many of the combat elements of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division have been nomadic in the past weeks, moving from Camp Black Jack, to Camp Stryker, and now to forward locations in and around Fallujah. As their combat powers move from one area to another, so do their support elements.

The 15th Forward Support Battalion provides everything from hot chow, clean water, vehicle parts, ammunition and more to 2 BCT.

The mission in Fallujah hasn't changed much for them, but the conditions sure have. Troops conducting maintenance can attest to that.

"The need for parts is a lot higher out here, because you never know what's going to happen," said Spc. Candice Wade, an automated logistics specialist in Company D, 15 FSB. "A truck can be running just great, then with a roadside bomb, mortar attack, or a [rocket-propelled grenade] it's down and you're hurting for parts."

She also said that not only is the heightened combat a problem, but being away from Camp Blackjack, adds some logistical problems.

"My troops receive reports from forward and coordinate for deadline items and request parts designations from the rear" said 1st Lt. Jay Johnson, maintenance control officer for Company A, 15 FSB. "We get them from wherever else we can get them, then we send them forward to the combat units."

Other missions the troops take on involve going into sector to recover vehicles disabled by combat.

"We go out with escorts to recover stuff, that's why we have to get out sometimes, and we have to deal with [improvised explosive devices], RPGs and mortar rounds too," said Sgt. Charles Hreha, a track vehicle mechanic, Company A, 15 FSB. "We go out and get broken-down tanks, Bradleys and a few Stryker Vehicles. I had to do quite a few recovery missions so far, and I anticipate plenty in the future."

"In our time here, we've had to adapt to a lot of things. Being here will just make



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1st Lt. Jay Johnson, maintenance control officer for Company A, 15th Forward Support Battalion, works on a M-88 Track Recovery Vehicle just outside Fallujah.

going home all the sweeter like America, and you come after this," she said. "It's so here and you actually see how nice that we are lucky enough many little things you've taken to have been born in a country for granted."

British Soldier Serves with American Unit

By Pfc. Matthew McLaughlin
10th Mtn. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP AL TAHREER (LIBERTY), Baghdad -- On an average sweltering summer's day in Iraq, an intercom in the tactical operation center screeched in preparation for an announcement.

"Attention in the TOC," the voice said in a thick British accent. "The daily (order) is now posted. God save the Queen!"

The voice belonged to Maj. John Wright, a British plans officer with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. Wright's diverse

experience with both British and American militaries makes him a valuable asset to the plans team.

Wright volunteered to work with American forces through an exchange program with the United Kingdom and the United States. He and his wife and three children moved to Fort Drum, N.Y. and Wright began working for the 10th Mountain Division. He served in Afghanistan training the Afghan National Army. There he met and worked for Col. Mark Milley, 2nd Brigade Combat Team commander. When 2nd BCT received confirmation that they were going to Iraq, Milley

requested that Wright come with them. Wright enthusiastically agreed.

"I knew we were doing good things in Iraq and I wanted to be a part of it," Wright said. "I wanted to see the world's superpower at work."

Wright is no stranger to combating terrorism. Aside from serving in both Iraq and Afghanistan, he also served as a company commander in Northern Ireland. Wright said the United Kingdom has a common cause with the United States in the war on terrorism.

"It's not just the United State's war.

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Officer from UK Participates in Exchange Program

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It is a war against terrorism," he said. "We had potential terrorist attacks in the UK. They were fortunately stopped. We are just as much a target. Everyone in the free world has to assume responsibilities for their freedom."

Wright said he enjoys working with American Soldiers. Sgt. Matthew Crowder, a plans non-commissioned officer, said 2nd BCT has also enjoyed and benefited from Wright's expertise.

"He gives us a different perspective," Crowder said. "He gives us a different way to look at a problem other than the traditional plans process. When we reach a road block, having an outside view gets you thinking about a different way to view things."

Wright's personality, especially his dry humor, is also a welcome relief from the daily pressures of a combat zone, said Staff Sgt. Robert Ross, plans NCOIC.

"He's a very good guy," Ross said. "He's very lighthearted. He keeps the stress level down in stressful times."

"The stories he tells really lighten the mood," Crowder added. "But when it comes down to work, he's all business. He makes sure the mission is accomplished. He's a very hard worker who is tireless in how he tackles projects."

Wright also said his American counterparts are learning to deal with his "quirks and eccentricities," referring to sayings and mannerisms foreign to Americans.

"He says regular British sayings, slang terms that most people don't understand that we now understand," Crowder said.

"They're basically all dirty," Ross



Courtesy Picture

Maj. John Wright, British exchange Officer with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain poses on patrol with fellow Commando Brigade Soldiers Maj. Craig Smith and Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Mahoney. Wright deployed with 2nd Brigade for OIF 2.

said, about the new slang terms Wright taught his fellow Soldiers. "If we didn't see James Bond movies, we'd have no idea what he was saying."

Despite differences in language and culture, Wright said American and British Soldiers share similar work ethics and beliefs.

"They're enthusiastic, dedicated and professional Soldiers," Wright said. "Our countries are very similar. I enjoyed working with our allies. It's been a worthwhile experience. It was good to be here, a great opportunity. I made some good friends."

Crowder agreed that working with Wright was a rewarding experience. The combined effort of Coalition forces will also reap benefits for both sides, he

said.

"Working hand-in-hand shows it wasn't just the U.S. fighting alone," Crowder said. "It's reassuring that even in the hard times, we have someone watching our backs."

Wright said British and American forces have the same intentions in Iraq—they both want to create a safe and secure environment for the people of Iraq to thrive in.

"We're doing the right thing," Wright said. "We do it for the Iraqi people to have a chance to prosper in peace without fear. We're sincere in our efforts. If we don't follow through (in Iraq), there will be anarchy. A rouge state would be created. We have to succeed here."

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

I don't know why.
laa adree limazaa.

Wednesday

High: 60
Low: 41



Thursday

High: 61
Low: 42



Friday

High: 61
Low: 45



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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News Notes

Good Samaritans Miss Out on 43K

CASPER, Wyo. (AP) -- Derek Hepner and Adam Simanton spotted a purse lying in the gutter of a Casper Street as they drove past it. Stopping to examine the bag, they pulled out a wallet and an Arizona driver's license and immediately took the purse to police. What they didn't see was an envelope containing \$43,000 in cash that was the owner's life savings. The owner had been traveling through Casper and apparently misplaced her purse during a stop. The woman phoned Hepner on Thursday to inform him of a \$200 reward for the two Casper College students.

Smelly Vandals Strike in Alabama

DOTHAN, Ala. (AP) -- A new crime has reared its stinky head in southeast Alabama: Potty tipping. Someone has been overturning portable toilets at four construction sites in the Dothan area, with one company reporting that four or five were flipped in a week. Several firms have complained. "They are very upset about it," said police Capt. John Givens said. "And we want it to stop." Givens said it costs the companies to clean up the mess. So officers plan to step up patrols in areas where the vandalism has occurred. Anyone caught vandalizing a portable toilet would be charged with criminal mischief, a misdemeanor.

Harvey Sworn in as Secretary of Army

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- Dr. Francis J. Harvey was sworn in this afternoon at the Pentagon as the 19th Secretary of the Army.

"This is a great honor for me," Harvey said. "My top priority will be to serve our Soldiers, civilian employees and family members of the active component, Army Reserve and Army National Guard."

"It's great to have Dr. Harvey on board as our Secretary," said Gen. Peter Schoomaker, the Army chief of staff. "Dr. Harvey has a wealth of experience leading large organizations with diverse work forces, managing major programs and leading technology development."

Prior to his appointment, Harvey was a business executive with broad experience centered on the defense industry.

Most recently, Harvey was a director and vice chairman of Duratek, a company specializing in treating radioactive, hazardous, and



Army News Service

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld looks on while Raymond DuBois, director of administration and management, swears in Dr. Francis J. Harvey as the 19th secretary of the Army Nov. 19.

other wastes.

Harvey succeeds Les Brownlee, who served as the acting Secretary of the Army for the past 18 months.

"I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Secretary Les Brownlee for his leadership and stewardship of the Army over the past 18 months," Schoomaker said. "I

speak for the entire Army family when I say his tireless efforts - to build a campaign-quality Army with joint and expeditionary capabilities, to equip our Soldiers with the best equipment and to improve their quality of life - will have an impact on the Army and ensure we remain relevant and ready for decades to come."

National Guard on Standby for Flood Search, Rescue

AUSTIN, Texas (Austin American-Statesman) -- Gov. Rick Perry this afternoon placed the Texas National Guard on standby to help with possible search and rescue operations after heavy rains flooded parts of the region.

Three helicopters have been activated to assist with efforts in Bexar, Comal and Bastrop counties, while two flood rescue strike teams, which include Austin fire and EMS representatives, also have been placed on standby.

The move comes after as much as 10 inches of rain fell in parts of Texas, including four inches in parts of Austin and neighboring counties. The region remains under a flash flood warning until at least 5 p.m. today.

Much of the significant flooding appears to be occurring in parts of Bastrop County near Smithville. A flash flood warning remains in effect for Bastrop County until 5 p.m.

A dispatcher at the sheriff's department said the number of roads covered with water is "too many to count."

Along the Lazy River near Webberville, some residents also were being evacuated along FM 969, authorities said.

In Austin this morning, Cesar Chavez Street was closed under the Lamar Boulevard



Austin American-Statesman

Edward Franz with the Bastrop volunteer firefighters helps to evacuate Christian Capps, 4, from his home in Bastrop County on Monday.

bridge due to water standing in the roadway. Earlier, 2 feet of water covered the street as the Colorado River rose, but it has since receded. A couple of flooded cars remained along the street.

Steve Collier, director of the City of Austin's Office of Emergency Management, said some 10 streets in the city were under water, while an additional 10 low-water crossings were closed in parts of Travis County.

Expos to Go National in D.C.

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The 73-year-old former Washington Senators public address announcer was not about to let a protester ruin another big baseball day in the nation's capital. Charlie Brotman wrestled the intruder out of the way, clearing the stage for the Montreal Expos to be rechristened the Washington Nationals.

With approval by baseball owners and a ballpark funding package still pending, the franchise in flux forged ahead Monday with a splashy ceremony before hundreds of fans in the grand hall at Union Station, unveiling a new name, logo, cap and plenty of new merchandise for sale.

"Baseball is about our way of life," Mayor Anthony Williams said. "It's about opportunity. And now with the Nationals, it's about our nation's capital."

The team also announced its home opener at RFK Stadium, the club's temporary home until a new ballpark is built, has been moved up to



AP

D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams, right, and team president Tony Tavares, left, unveil the name and logo of the Washington Nationals baseball team Monday.

April 14, so as not to compete for attention with a Jackie Robinson event at Dodger Stadium the following day.

Baseball owners are expected to approve the move by Dec. 6.

The team also unveiled pennants, T-shirts and a www.nationals.com Web site, but uniforms and a mascot are

still being designed.

Nationals was the official name of the original American League franchise more popularly known as the Senators. The team played in Washington from 1901-60, with both names used interchangeably for several decades. Owner Calvin Griffith officially changed the name to Senators in 1957.

Pats Fly to Victory over Chiefs with Brady's Passing Game

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) -- A half dozen New England Patriots made big plays. None made as many as Tom Brady.

Brady threw for 315 yards, including a touchdown pass to Deion Branch, and the Patriots beat the Kansas City Chiefs 27-19 on Monday night for their 24th win in 25 games.

The victory was New England's third straight after its NFL-record 21-game winning streak was snapped in Pittsburgh last month.

Typically, the Patriots (9-1) didn't seem satisfied as they pursue their third NFL title in four seasons.

"We're still trying to improve," Brady said. "We left some points out on the field tonight. I think everyone's just glad we won this game."

One way they did it was by

shutting down a Kansas City running game missing Priest Holmes, out with a knee injury.

But Trent Green also took advantage of injuries in the New England secondary, throwing for 381 yards, including TD passes of 65 and 26 yards to Eddie Kennison.

The Chiefs, however, couldn't stop the Patriots, who used up nearly 4½ minutes on a drive that ended with Adam Vinatieri's 28-yard field goal. That almost guaranteed that the Chiefs (3-7) will miss the playoffs after going 13-3 last season.

"They're an excellent team. They showed why they are champions," Kansas City coach Dick Vermeil said. "All I can tell our players is 'shake their hands, say good job and move on.'"



AP

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) launches a pass over a Kansas City Chiefs defender early in the third quarter of their game at Arrowhead Stadium on Monday night. The Patriots won the game, 27-19, bringing their record to 9-1.

In Brief

U2 Surprises NY with Concert

NEW YORK (AP) -- With the bright lights of lower Manhattan shining on the stage, the band U2 played a surprise outdoor concert Monday in a waterfront park beneath the Brooklyn Bridge. Although the MTV-organized show hadn't been publicly announced or advertised, thousands lined up at the Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park, a riverside park between the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges and across from the New York skyline. Before the concert, U2 spent the day playing on the back of a flatbed truck that wound through city streets as a film crew shot the band for a new video.

Criminals Try to Take from Ozzy

LONDON (AP) -- Burglars broke into the English country mansion of rocker Ozzy Osbourne and his wife, Sharon, early Monday and stole a "large amount of jewelry," police said. The burglary woke the Osbournes, and "a man" grabbed one of the intruders before the burglar broke free and jumped from a 30-foot-high, second-floor window. A "large amount of jewelry" was stolen, said police. The burglary took place in Chalfont St. Peter, Buckinghamshire, a county bordering London. Jay Marose, the Osbourne family's spokesman in the United States, said that "Ozzy and Sharon were woken up by the incident eventually. My understanding is that the intruder was discovered in ... Sharon's dressing room."